Strood Heritage Trail QR Audio Scripts

Strood Cinema

The buildings immediately behind you from no.58 (currently SpecSavers) to no.68 (formerly Strood Community Project) were previously the site of Strood's largest cinema. Opened on 19th November 1919 as the Invicta Cinema, this was the third Invicta built in the Medway Towns by the Croneen brothers of Gillingham. It was an attractive building with a glass canopy and cupolas on the roof. The Invicta was bombed in the second world war and in 1946 was acquired by Henry Ward who rebuilt it as the 538-seat Wardona Cinema that operated here until 1958. If you walk from this point towards Rochester and turn left into Station Road, at no.4 you'll find a café and a tanning salon. These were the foyer and projection box of another Strood cinema, the Gem, opened in 1910. It was renamed the Queens Cinema in 1932 and closed in 1941. The auditorium was where the used car dealership now stands.